

like that. They lived under it and probably right now it is a floor rather than a lid. But I just cannot see how this would work in a county, and those officials are elected. Those people out there don't like what they are doing. They certainly have every chance to remove them and put somebody in there that does operate the county to their liking. But I guess I really am concerned how it would really work. Are we going to have inflation? Are we going have deflation over the next several years? I don't think anybody can tell us that. Here you are going to freeze that fund out there at exactly what it is beginning I suppose July 1st of next year when the Medicare payments are supposed to be built up to a sizeable fund. I just don't see how it would work. Now as far as putting a lid across the state in Mr. Jaksha's threats, I don't doubt that he may try to do that, and I don't even doubt that it will pass. I don't think it will. I think people will have more sense than to fence themselves in in the Constitution as we know those things don't work very well. But in case they do, I am not about to be threatened by anyone to make me vote a certain way in this body, and especially on that kind of an issue. So I think Senator Haberman is trying to do something that he feels is important and perhaps some of his constituents feel that way, but I am sure all of them don't. So I would hope that you would defeat this and leave local government run its business. We have got all we can do right here. I hate to think that they weren't doing as good a job as we have been doing the last few days. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Approximately 22 minutes left and the Chair recognizes Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, I voted on this bill to get it out of committee, but if I had known what was going to happen to 604, I would have never done that. This bill would have never come out of committee. I felt that we were going to get the big hunk of Medicare and that we had to send a message here to the county governments, but as I see it now, I think our counties are going to have a tremendous impact from this particular bill. He is going to delay it a year with this amendment, I realize. But I would like to give you a figure here what could happen and I consider that it will happen. Next year the county's share of the cost, it is contemplated in the state the Medicare will cost us \$159 million. Nine percent of that will be \$14,340,000. But we must also remember that we have to pick up the indigent cost and this will be increased because the rules,